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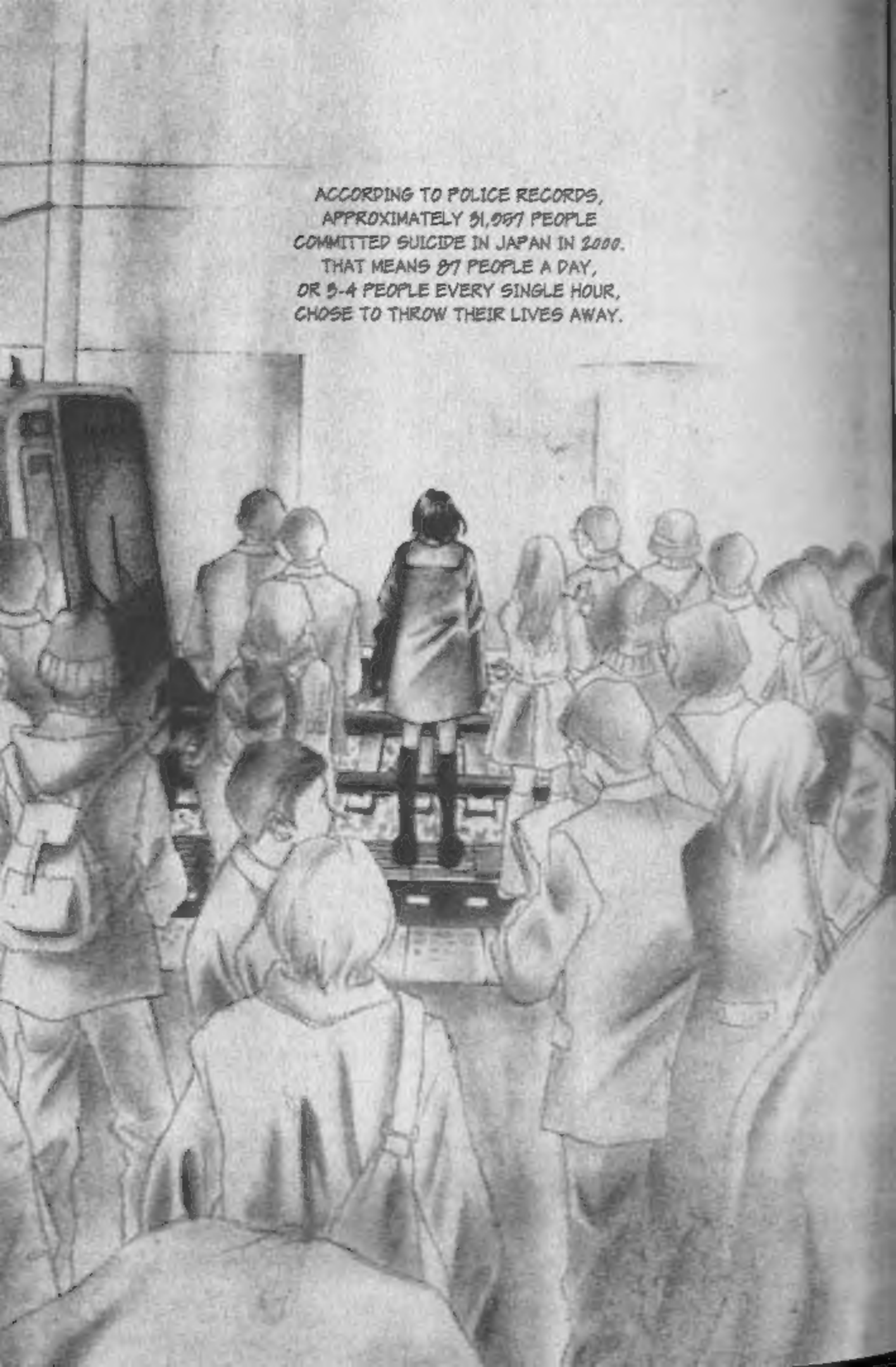
The Door 7
Mistakes 153


ACCORDING TO POLICE RECORDS,
APPROXIMATELY 31,957 PEOPLE
COMMITTED SUICIDE IN JAPAN IN 2000.
THAT MEANS 87 PEOPLE A DAY,
OR 3-4 PEOPLE EVERY SINGLE HOUR,
CHOSE TO THROW THEIR LIVES AWAY.

とびら
The Door

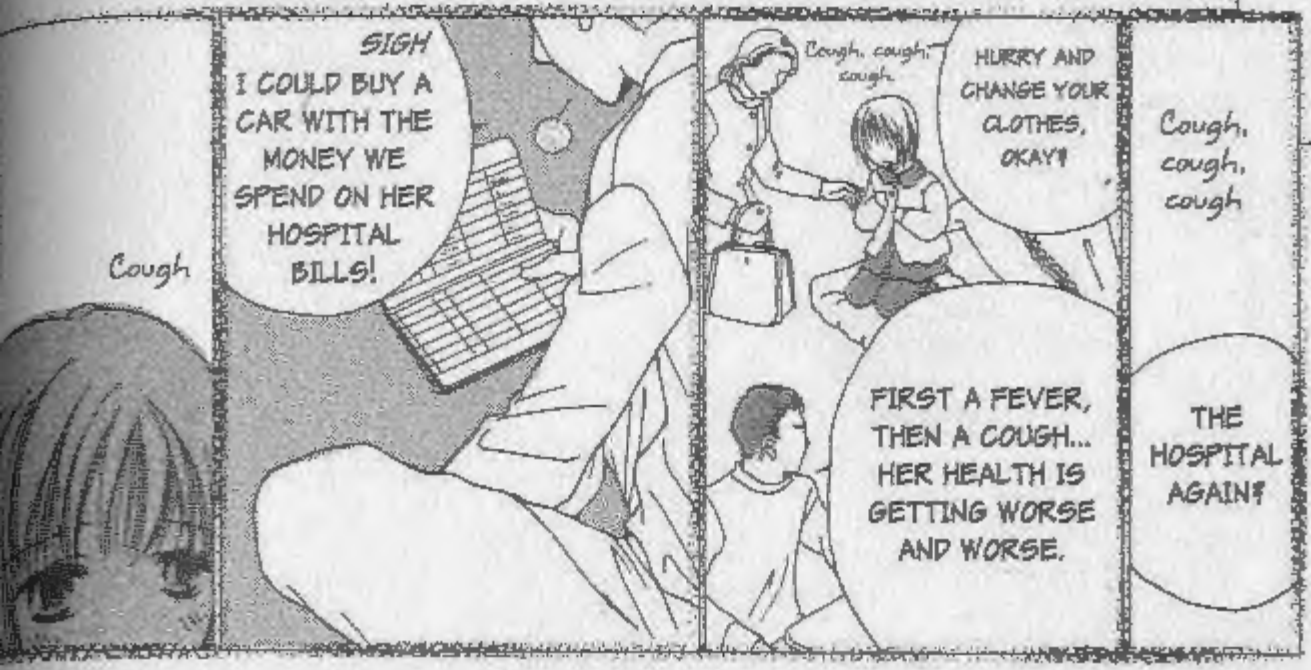
.....
5/10/1996
RIGHT ELBOW
8/20/1996
LEFT ANKLE
1/17/1997
RIGHT KNEE
11/9/1997
LEFT ELBOW
7/6/1998
LEFT KNEE
12/12/1998
RIGHT WRIST
2000
LEFT

ピピピ
ピピピ
MORNING...
YOU SHOULD GET UP AS SOON AS YOUR ALARM GOES OFF. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE BEEN UP STUDYING ALL NIGHT.
バン
バン
バン

スィー スィー
Sigh...
スィー スィー
バタン
SEE YOU LATER.
MY MOM...
DAD LEFT HOME 8 MONTHS AGO.
BUT THEY PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW...
SHE HANGS OUT DAD'S SHIRTS WHERE EVERYONE WILL SEE THEM; SO NO ONE WILL FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED.
1-A

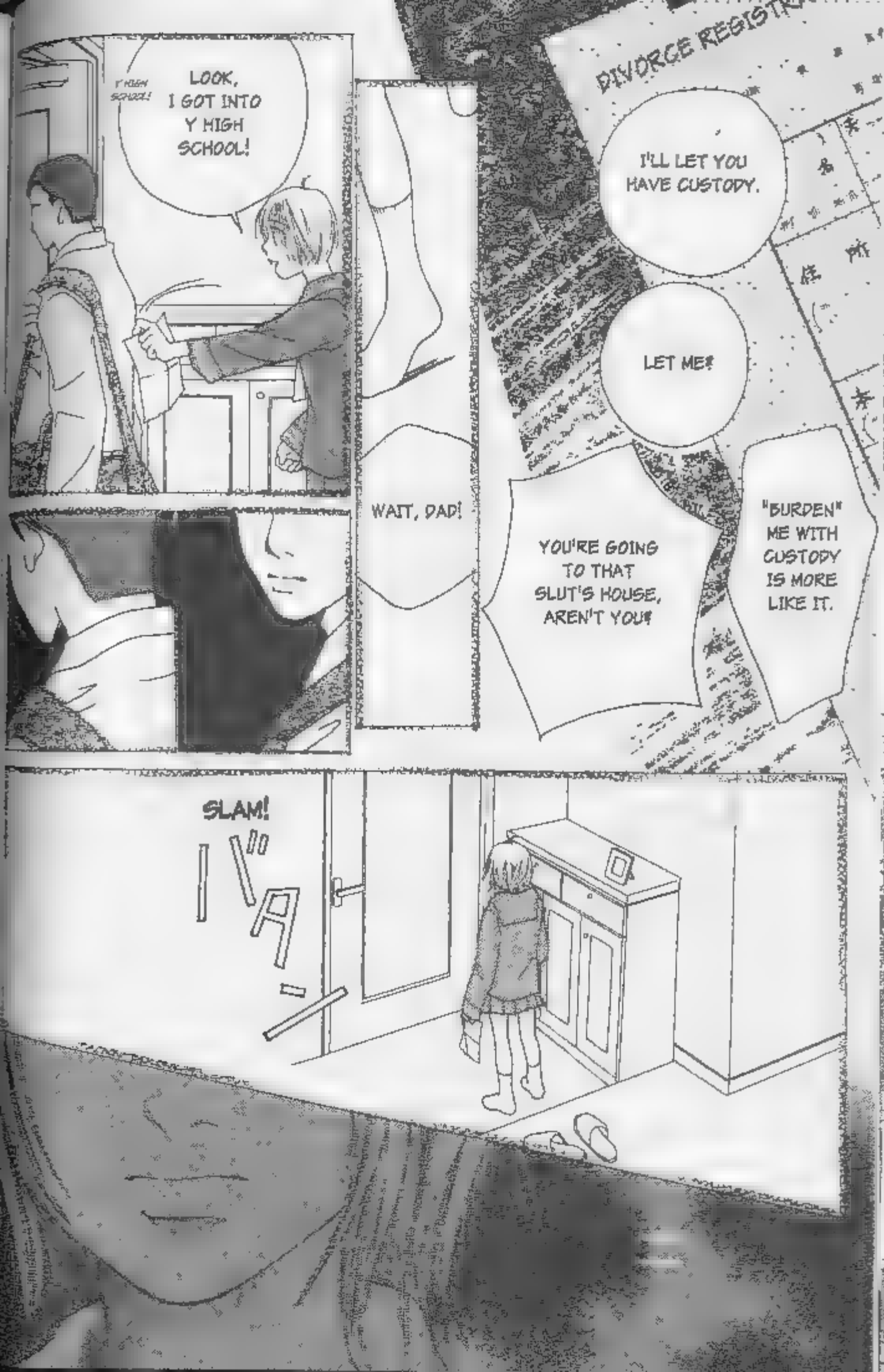
THE SENDER
.....
.....
.....
シャカ シャカ
YOU FREE TODAY? WE'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR AMI!
ピロリン♪
I GUESS I'LL GO ANYWAY...
I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS, BUT...
AMI'S BIRTHDAY
5月
6火

DON'T LOOK BACK, DARLING. IT'LL MAKE PARTING THAT MUCH HARDER. AH...
KARAOKE
BIG
HMM... NOBODY'S EVEN LISTENING.
MAYBE I CHOSE THE WRONG SONG AGAIN...
.....
AH...
Happy birthday!
Ha ha ha ha!
I'VE ALWAYS FELT LEFT OUT, EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID.
OH, OH, OH, DON'T DON'T DON'T GO THAT FAR, I CAN FEEL IT...
IDIOT! WHAT KIND OF SONG DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SINGING?
.....?
The song's over anyway, dear...
Little brat.


Cough
SIGH
I COULD BUY A CAR WITH THE MONEY WE SPEND ON HER HOSPITAL BILLS!
Cough, cough, cough
HURRY AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, OKAY?
FIRST A FEVER, THEN A COUGH... HER HEALTH IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
Cough, cough, cough
THE HOSPITAL AGAIN?

LET'S PLAY!
MOM, IF I KEEP SWIMMING, WILL I GET HEALTHY AGAIN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND IF I KEEP STUDYING HARD, WILL DAD STOP GETTING ANGRY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SORRY, SHE HAS ENGLISH LESSONS TODAY.
SORRY, SHE HAS SWIMMING LESSONS TODAY.
SORRY, SHE HAS PIANO LESSONS TODAY.
.....
Let's go.

HOW'S IT GOING? STUDYING HARD?
WHY DO WE HAVE TO ACTUALLY STUDY?
WE CAME OVER BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU HAD A DVD PLAYER IN YOUR ROOM!
MATH
Y- YES...
YOU'RE GOING HOME? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIES?
Bye!
Forget it now.
WAIT!
SLAM!
Can we?
SO DO WHAT MOMMY TELLS YOU, OKAY?
YOU WANT TO WATCH SOME MOVIES?
I GUESS, AS LONG AS YOU STUDY FOR TWO HOURS FIRST.


LOOK, I GOT INTO Y HIGH SCHOOL!
Y HIGH SCHOOL!
WAIT, DAD!
DIVORCE REGISTRY
I'LL LET YOU HAVE CUSTODY.
LET ME?
YOU'RE GOING TO THAT SLUT'S HOUSE, AREN'T YOU?
"BURDEN" ME WITH CUSTODY IS MORE LIKE IT.
SLAM!
I "A-

I THOUGHT IF I GOT INTO A PRESTIGIOUS HIGH SCHOOL LIKE Y, DAD WOULDN'T LEAVE HOME
WHAT AM I DOING?
ACCEPTANCE
WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING?
SUDDENLY, I REALIZED HOW STUPID I'D BEEN THE WHOLE TIME.
THEY ACCEPTED YOU, SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU SENT THEM YOUR CONFIRMATION YET?
I'M NOT GOING TO DO EVERYTHING YOU TELL ME ANYMORE, MOM!
MANATSU! MANATSU!
OPEN UP!
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO TO F ALL-GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO Y HIGH?
I'M GOING TO RE-CREATE MYSELF!
NO ONE AT F ALL-GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL KNOWS ME.
FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO.

I HAD A REALLY BAD COLD, SO I MISSED THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF SCHOOL. I'M ALREADY LEFT OUT
OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
THE CLASS HAD ALREADY SPLIT INTO CLIQUES, AND I WASN'T IN ANY OF THEM.
THE NERDS, THE ANIME OTAKU, THE JOCKS, THE SHOW-OFFS...
BUT MISERY LIKES COMPANY, SO
AND OF COURSE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET ACCEPTED INTO ANY OF THEM.

FRIENDS OF FRIENDS OF FRIENDS COME ALONG JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT, WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHY.
THERE'S ALWAYS A PARTY TO CELEBRATE STUFF LIKE GETTING A BOYFRIEND OR SURVIVING FINAL EXAMS. THEY FIND ONE REASON OR ANOTHER TO GET TOGETHER HERE EVERY SINGLE DAY
MANATSU, DON'T BE SO GLOOMY! LET'S GO HAVE SOME FUN! IT'S AMI'S BIRTHDAY!
SHE GOT ALL EXCITED WHEN SHE HEARD A FRIEND OF HERS FROM JUNIOR HIGH WAS COMING
WHICH ONE'S AMI?
Ha ha ha ha!
One more time! Cheers!
You can just break up with him as soon as Christmas is over, anyway.
WHAT ABOUT THAT GUY FROM K UNIVERSITY YOU TURNED DOWN BEFORE? HE'S BETTER THAN NOBODY JUST GO OUT WITH HIM.
YOU SERIOUSLY GOTTA GET A BOYFRIEND BEFORE CHRISTMAS!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING ANYWAY, BUT THEY'D HATE ME IF I ACTUALLY SAID IT.
DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH. LOOKS LIKE I'M BEING LEFT-OUT AGAIN.
YOU'D SINK THAT LOW JUST TO GET A BOYFRIEND? THAT'S NOT WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY BE FREE IN LOVE!

AT FIRST, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE LETTING LOOSE AND JUST BEING THEMSELVES, BUT I DON'T THINK SO.

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ALL JUST PRETENDING TO BE THE KIND OF PERSON THEY THINK THE OTHERS WILL LIKE.

BUT I GUESS LETTING YOUR TRUE SELF SHOW ALL THE TIME COULD BE A LITTLE TIRING.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE HURTING ANYONE. THEY'RE ALL SMILING AND LAUGHING. I WONDER IF THIS IS JUST THE WAY TO MEET PEOPLE AND GET ALONG WITH THEM?

I WONDER IF I'LL ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS, NO MATTER WHO I MEET.

SO HE SAID, "IT'S OKAY TO HAVE SEX IF YOU'RE HAVING YOUR PERIOD. YOU WON'T GET PREGNANT." BUT THE HOTEL BED WAS SO FILTHY AFTERWARDS!

Ha ha ha ha!

MY BOYFRIEND WOULD NEVER SAY THAT!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SOME OF THEM HAVE MET, BUT THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING SO MUCH FUN SINGING KARAOKE AND SHOWING EACH OTHER THEIR PHOTO ALBUMS.

CASHIER

COME ON. IT'S AMI'S BIRTHDAY!

BUT I PAID BEFORE, TOO...

AND BESIDES, IT'D BE A REAL PAIN TO GET SEPARATE CHECKS FOR EIGHT PEOPLE.

IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER IF YOU TREATED US AND PAID IT ALL YOURSELF.

RIGHT?

I WANTED REAL FRIENDS. BUT NOTHING TURNED OUT LIKE I HAD HOPED.

HUH? I HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING?

What? She's treating us?

.....

.....

Me, too!

Me, too!

Hey, can I make a call on your cell phone?

You're so nice, Manatsu!

You see nothing but good things in my future?

Thank goodness! Thank you!

I'm so happy!

YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

PARK

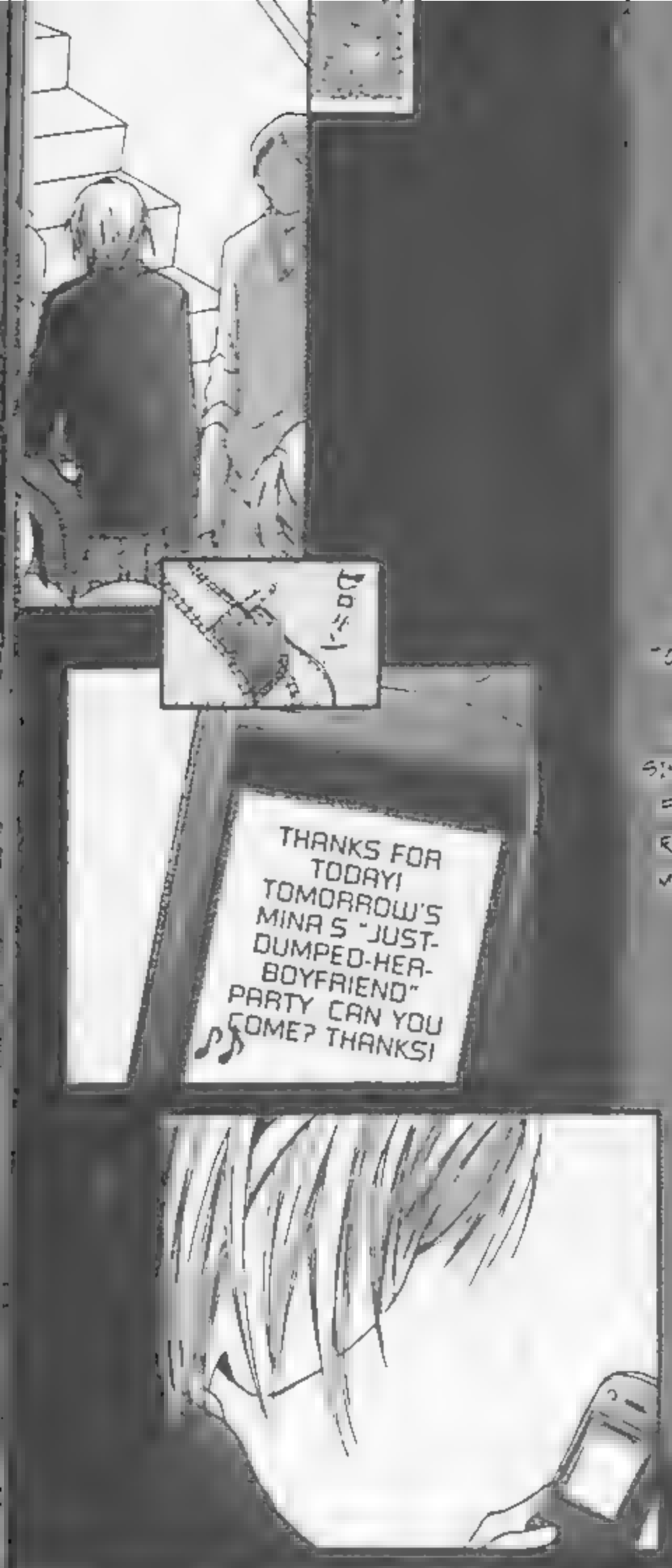
FORTUNE-TELLING

WOW, I CAN SEE THAT YOU HAVE A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.

YOU MIGHT EVEN LIVE TO BE 116 YEARS OLD!

SEE! YOUR LIFE LINE IS NICE AND LONG.

.....



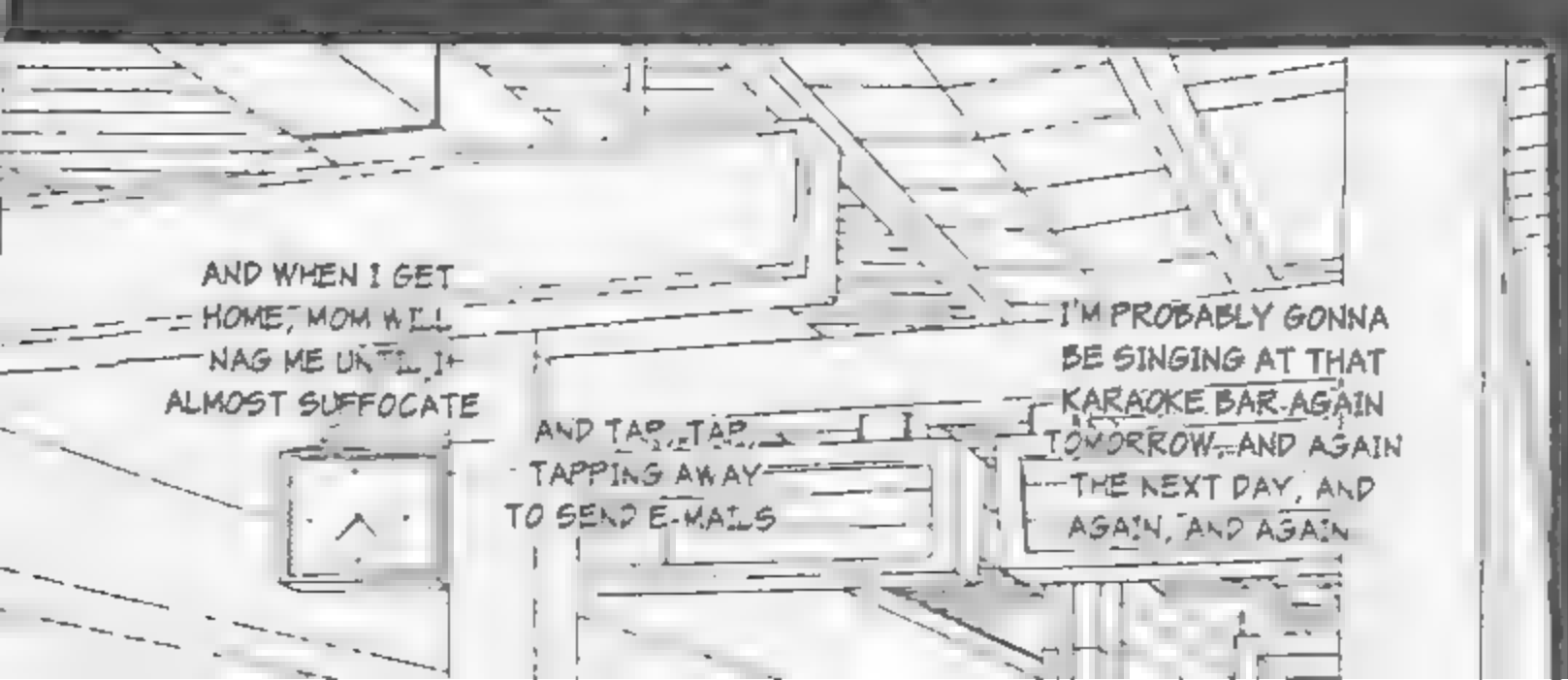
IS IT GOING TO BE LIKE THAT EVERY SINGLE DAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?

WHAT'S LONG LIFE?

THAT MEANS I HAVE ANOTHER 00 YEARS LEFT TO GO?

NOT A SINGLE FUN THING HAPPENED TODAY OR YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE THAT

I'M NOT EVEN REALLY LIVING IT'S MORE LIKE I'M JUST GETTING THROUGH EACH DAY


AND WHEN I GET HOME, MOM WILL NAG ME UNTIL I ALMOST SUFFOCATE
AND TAP, TAP, TAPPING AWAY TO SEND E-MAILS
I'M PROBABLY GONNA BE SINGING AT THAT KARAOKE BAR AGAIN TOMORROW... AND AGAIN THE NEXT DAY, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN

THAT KIND OF FUTURE FEELS

WHAT IF I KILL MYSELF?

EXPRESS TRAIN APPROACHING!

PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE WHITE LINE

BUT I COULD STAND HERE, AND SOMEONE MIGHT BUMP ME IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN...

I'M NOT BRAVE ENOUGH TO THROW MYSELF FROM THE PLATFORM.

IT'S JUST...I DON'T WANT TO KEEP ON LIVING EITHER.

IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY *WANT* TO KILL MYSELF.

HOOOOOOOONK!

ALRIGHT *NOW!*

I WONDER IF SOMEONE WILL REALLY PUSH ME?

W-WATCH OUT!

EXPRESS

THUS, A[illegible]ER LONG, LO[illegible]AY FINALLY COMES TO AN END...

116 YEARS OLD...

トン…

トン…

ﾌﾗﾌﾗ…

ﾌﾗﾌﾗ…

HOME EC

MIGHT NEED SOME MORE CARROTS

WHAT WAS HER NAME?

SHE'S NOT IN ANY OF THE GROUPS, EITHER.

AND SHE'S ALWAYS ABSENT.

.....

HUH?

カラ…

!!

AAAAGH!

Teacher!

I guess her hand slipped.

HURRY UP AND GET TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU WALK?

.....

キーン
コーン…

カーン…

SHE...SHE CUT HER WRISTS.

BYE BYE!

じ…

What am I doing?

ドキ

I'm going home.

HOLD IT! HEY!

$450! WE SAID WE'D GIVE YOU UNTIL TODAY. NOW WHERE'S OUR MONEY?

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!

I'M SORRY! I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE! I'M SORRY!

!!

THEN MAKE SOME!

YOU HUNG UP ON ME YESTERDAY, BITCH!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA BLOW US OFF THAT EASY, YOU COCKROACH! COCKROACH WOMAN!

DIE!

FFFFFFFFF

COCKROACH SPRAY

Stubborn cockroach

AH AH AHA !

AAAH! IT'S STILL ALIVE!

UM...

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

WHAT AM I SAYING?

EH-HEH

WERE THOSE YOUR FRIENDS?

It got soaked with bug spray

OH, GREAT. I THINK IT'S BROKEN.

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?

HUH? IT'S SPEED DIAL 000...

000...

ピピ

IT WORKS!

AMI? OH, THAT GIRL I MET...

RRRR

Pi Pi Pi Pi

I WONDER IF THOSE GUYS DO THIS KIND OF THING TO HER ALL THE TIME...

The bug spray got all over her hair!

Great!

Chuckle

IT'S A PAIN TRYING TO KEEP FRIENDS, ISN'T IT?

I DON'T THINK SO...

SHE HUNG UP AFTER ONE RING. SHOULDN'T YOU HURRY UP AND CALL BACK?

いやいや

ドキン

ユキ ユキ ユキ

SHE'S INTO CUTTING...

WELL, SEE YA.

CUU

Pi Pi Pi Pi

WHITE...

THIS GIRL'S ARMS WERE AS SKINNY AS STALKS OF ASPARAGUS...

BUT THEY HAD MORE SCARS THAN I COULD COUNT.

LEFT

9/1/1999
RIGHT KNEE

"
RIGHT ELBOW

11/17
RIGHT E

IF I CUT MY WRISTS, I WONDER IF THE SCARS WOULD LOOK LIKE A THREAD...

.....

CUTTING

SEARCH

CLICK

CUTTING

ACCOMPANIED BY DEPRESSION

TO CUT ONE'S WRIST WITH A KNIFE, BOX CUTTER, OR RAZOR
TO REPEATEDLY INFLICT INJURIES ON ONESELF
ALSO CALLED WRIST-CUT SYNDROME.
INCIDENTS OF WRIST-CUTTING HAVE BEEN ON THE RISE,
PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG GIRLS.

THERE ARE ALSO MANY CASES ACCOMPANIED BY BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER, HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER, NARCISSISTIC PERSONALITY DISORDER, AND OTHER SUCH PERSONALITY DISORDERS ALSO. IT'S NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE EATING DISORDERS

WHEN WE ASKED GIRLS WHY THEY DID IT, THEY RESPONDED:
"I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT WHEN I CUT MYSELF."
"I FEEL CALM WHEN I SEE MY BLOOD FLOWING OUT OF MY BODY."
"I JUST WANTED TO FEEL LIKE I WAS REALLY ALIVE."

...RV

...T MY WRISTS FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN I WAS IN 6TH GRADE.
...AUSE I HATED MYSELF.
...T MYSELF SO I COULD GET RID OF ALL THE BAD BLOOD INSIDE ME
...T MYSELF ONCE A WEEK
...AS ALMOST LIKE CLEANING MY EARS OR SOMETHING.

HUH? WHO'S THIS?

BECAUSE AS OF RIGHT NOW, I'M DEAD!

WAAHAHAHA!

WHY DOES THE BATHROOM IN OCTOPUS PARK SMELL SO BAAAAD?

YES!

Pi
Pi
Pi
Pi

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S GOING TO DIE.

I SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED WITH HER, BUT PART OF ME TELLS ME SHE'S JUST PRETENDING...

Ignore her!
Ignore her!

CLICK

HEY!

I MEAN, YOU CAN'T REALLY DIE JUST BY CUTTING YOUR WRISTS, CAN YOU?

.....

THE GIRL WITH THE ASPARAGUS ARMS?

0902

EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE TAKEN, AS THERE ARE CASES WHERE SOMEONE WHO CUTS HER WRISTS WILL ACTUALLY GO THROUGH WITH A SUICIDE.

WAIT!

OCTOPUS PARK!

SWISH

IN HERE!

BAM BAM

ASPARAGUS! ASPARAGUS!

AH!

ASPARAGUS...

HEY, ASPARAGUS ...

WHAT SHOULD I DO? CALL AN AMBULANCE?

HUH?

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?

BAM BAM BASH

WAIT... ARE YOU DRUNK?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CALLED ME HERE!

UNBELIEVABLE!

OW! QUIT IT!

I WAS DYING!

THANK GOODNESS! SHE'S ALIVE!

LET ME DIE! HUH? THE BLEEDING STOPPED.

THEN IT MUST BE THE RED WINE.

HEY, YOU.

UGH!

BLEEEEEGH!

Cough, cough

YAAAAAH!

GOOD! MOM'S NOT HOME.

CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES. HERE, USE THIS.

HER WRISTS AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS SHE'S CUTTING...

I MADE SOME TEA! WHERE'D SHE GO?

WHAT'S SHE DOING IN MY ROOM?

OH, NO!

1/8/ 100% RIGHT ELBOW

NO! DON'T LOOK AT THAT!

SHE'S GONNA MAKE FUN OF ME, I JUST KNOW IT...

HOW PRETTY!

Heh heh

SO PRETTY....

GOT TIME TODAY? WE'RE HAVIN' A PARTY FOR YURI.

WED
8
THUR
9
FRI
10
SAT

THE SENDER

キーン コーン…

ガラガラ

YEAH, WE'RE GOING OVER THERE NOW.

YEAH, MANATSU'S COMING TOO.

1-A

Ha ha ha

GOLDFISH FOOD

DON'T YOU WANT TO GO WITH US?

AT LEAST I THINK SO, BUT

IF I SHOWED MY DIARY TO THOSE GIRLS, THEY'D JUST LAUGH AT ME I KNOW IT!

Pi Pi Pi Pi

HEY, SHE HUNG UP ON THE FIRST RING. HURRY UP AND CALL HER BACK.

I THINK I'VE REALIZED WHY I GO TO ALL THOSE PARTIES WITH THOSE GIRLS. IT'S NOT BECAUSE I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH THEM. IT'S MORE LIKE I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.

I WRITE DOWN WHATEVER PARTY THEY DECIDE TO THROW JUST BECAUSE I WANT TO FILL IN THE BLANK SPACES IN MY DAY PLANNER.

AND MY CELL PHONE IS FULL OF ADDRESSES OF PLACES I DON'T WANT TO GO, AND NUMBERS OF PEOPLE I PROBABLY WON'T EVER SEE AGAIN.

AND FOR THAT MATTER, HANGING UP ON THE FIRST RING...

...IS A PRETTY CRUMMY WAY TO TREAT SOMEONE YOU CALL A "FRIEND."

DO YOU WANNA TRY THIS, TOO?

ピチピチ

N--

NO! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

GIVE IT A TRY. IT'LL HELP YOU RELAX.

IDIOT! STOP IT!

BUT IT HELPS ME BEFORE A TEST, OR WHEN...

...I'M DEPRESSED.

ギギ...

I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR A WHILE.

BUT I HATED BEING PICKED ON ALL THE TIME.

ピキピキピキ

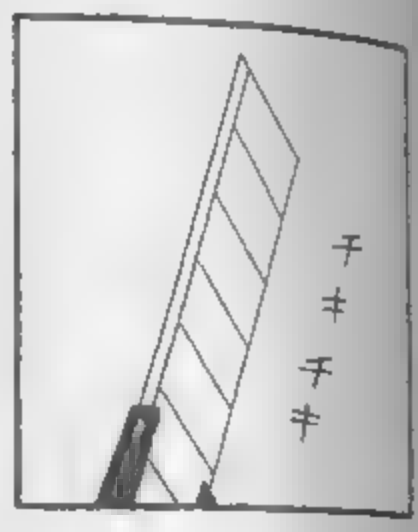
YOU DO STUFF LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME?

I DECIDED TO STOP DOING IT BEFORE SUMMER CAME, OR ELSE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WEAR SHORT SLEEVES, BUT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

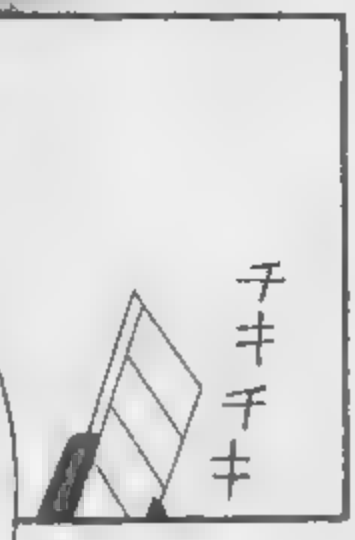
THEN I RAN OUT OF THINGS TO CUT. SO I STARTED CUTTING MY ARM.

FIRST I CUT FISH, THEN PARAKEETS, THEN CATS.

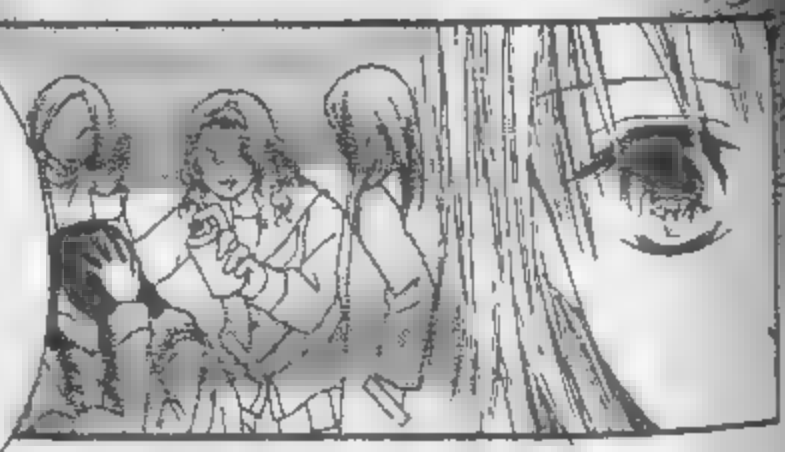
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO STOP ONCE I GOT INTO HIGH SCHOOL. I THOUGHT I'D HAVE FUN THERE.



I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE GIRLS, TOO.



BUT THOSE GIRLS STILL CAME AFTER ME, EVEN AFTER WE WENT INTO HIGH SCHOOL.



I STARTED WISHING I WOULD DIE. AND BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I CUT MYSELF ALL OVER.

NOT AT ALL.

D-DOESN'T IT HURT?

YOU'RE KIDDING ME! EVEN A LITTLE PAPER CUT HURTS.

BUT FOR SOME REASON, IT DOESN'T HURT WHEN YOU USE A CUTTER.

PAPER CUTS STING.

HUH?!

AGH! BLOOD!

!!

!

HEY, IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.

...HUH?

IT'S OKAY.

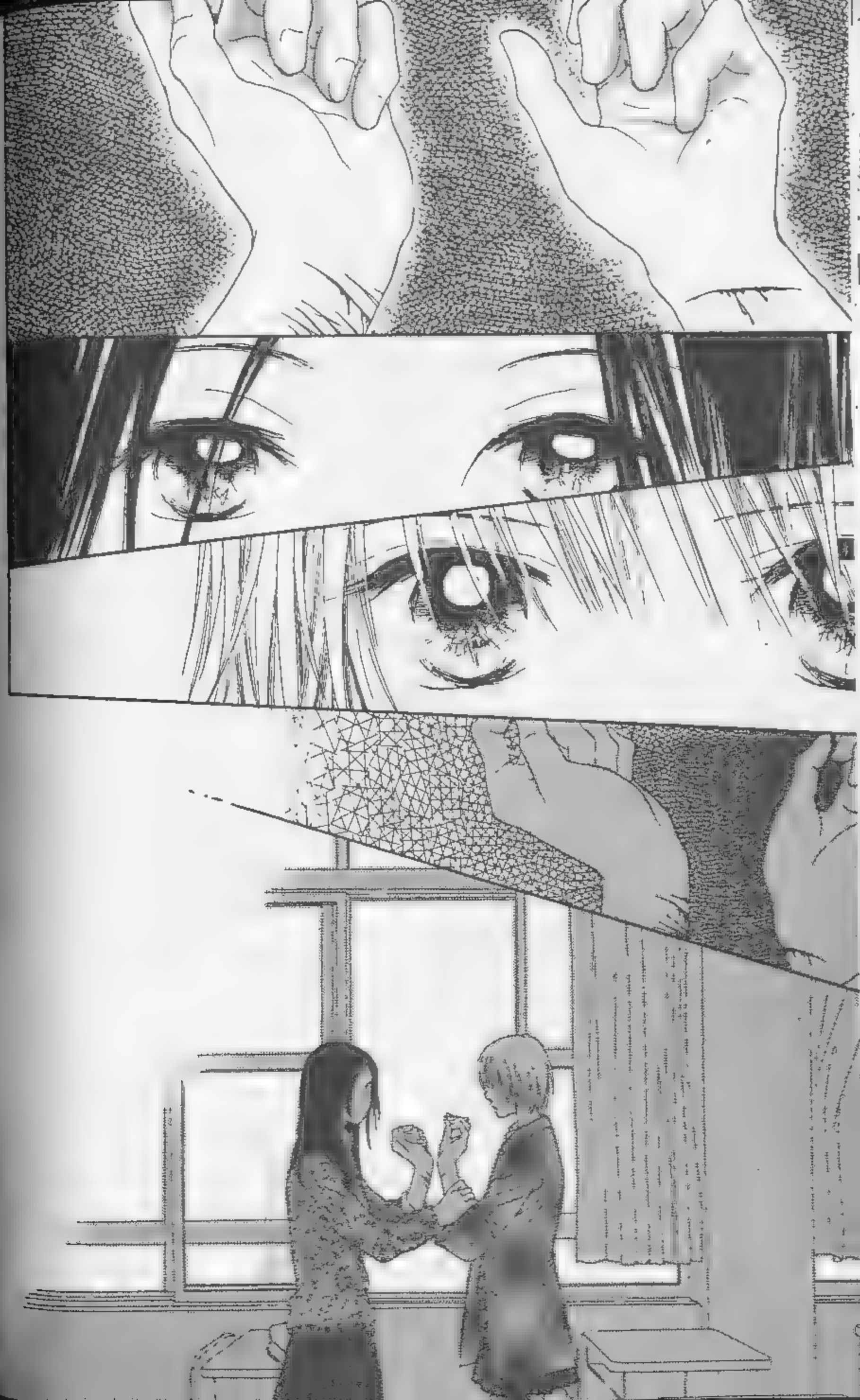
HEY!

AGH! WAIT! WHY ARE YOU CUTTING ME?!

NO! NO! ONLY A LITTLE! ONLY .01 MILLIMETERS! DON'T CUT ME TOO MUCH! AND TELL ME WHEN YOU DO!

IT'S ALREADY DONE.

WHA...



I GOT GOOSE BUMPS

THIS WAS SO MUCH MORE EXCITING THAN E-MAILS OR CELL PHONE CALLS.

EDGE KILLED HIMSELF!

THE VOCALIST FOR ZIPPER! HE KILLED HIMSELF BY JUMPING OFF A BUILDING!

WAAAH!

WHAT A STUPID NAME!

Has more impact than "Edge," don't you think?

QUIET! I CAN'T HEAR!

I DON'T KNOW HIM.

WHAT— WERE YOU A FAN OF HIS, MANATSU?

IT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS.

NO, NOT REALLY. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE WAS REALLY POPULAR.

HE WAS 24 YEARS OLD. HIS REAL NAME WAS TOSHIO SATO.

HE WAS A MEMBER OF A VERY POPULAR ROCK GROUP...

LAST NIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 A.M., EDGE JUMPED OFF THE ROOF OF HIS 14TH FLOOR APARTMENT.

AS YOU CAN SEE HERE, A LARGE GROUP OF FANS HAVE GATHERED IN FRONT OF HIS APARTMENT.

14 FLOORS... THE SAME AS MY APARTMENT BUILDING.

EDGE! EDGE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

NEXT UP IN THE NEWS: THIS MORNING IN SAITAMA, TWO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS LEAPT TO THEIR DEATHS FROM THE ROOF OF A BUILDING.

HOWEVER, THEY LEFT BEHIND NO NOTE INDICATING THE REASONING BEHIND THEIR ACTIONS.

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT IT ON EVERY CHANNEL.

NOW, WE PRE-EMPT REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING TO PRESENT ZIPPER'S CONCERT AT THE TOKYO DOME...

AT LOCAL MUSIC STORES, SALES OF ZIPPER CDS HAVE SUDDENLY SHOT THROUGH THE ROOF. AND ESSAYS WRITTEN BY THE LATE ARTIST

THEY PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT EDGE AND DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIM INTO DEATH.

5 OTHER PEOPLE DID IT, TOO.

HEY, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS AMAZING?

IT'S PERFECT.

IN THE HEARTS OF HIS FANS, EDGE DIED AN AMAZING DEATH. IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?

WELL, IT'S LIKE EVEN THOUGH HE'S DEAD, HE'S STILL ALIVE IN THEM.

THIS IS SO AMAZING! AMAZING!

Huff, huff, huff!

MANATSU!

WAAAAAAAAH!

...AAH...

Huff, huff!

DEATH...

AAAAAH!

WAAAAAH!

DEATH IS NOT THE END...IT'S THE BEGINNING.

ONE PERSON'S DEATH AFFECTS THE LIVES OF MANY OTHERS.

WHEN YOU DIE, SUDDENLY EVERYONE TAKES A LOT MORE INTEREST IN YOU THAN THEY EVER DID WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE MOMENT YOU DIE, YOUR LIFE BECOMES ETERNAL.

EDGE FLEW THROUGH THE SKIES
AND NOW HE'LL ALWAYS BE
REMEMBERED AT THE HEIGHT
OF HIS POPULARITY

Edge Commits suicide
Star jumped from the roof of his apartment building
Mega-Popular Rock star Jumps to His Death

HE DIDN'T FA...
ONTO THE CONCRETE
HE FELL INTO OUR HEARTS

CD DVD

HEY, DEATH ISN'T THE END
OF EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

EDGE

EDGE

EDGE

EH, I CAN STILL HEAR HIS VOICE
HE'S STILL HERE!

HE'S BEGUN HIS SECOND LIFE

I MEAN, PEOPLE START SLOWLY DYING FROM THE MOMENT THEY'RE BORN.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF SOMEONE'S AN IDIOT OR A GREAT PERSON. EVERYONE DIES AT SOME POINT.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE BY SOME ACCIDENT OR DISEASE.

IT WAS AMAZING BECAUSE HE *CHOSE* TO DIE.

EDGE'S DEATH WAS HUGE BECAUSE HE COMMITTED SUICIDE.

INCLUDING HIM, AND HIM, AND HER...

I WILL, TOO.

AND SO WILL YOU.

DON'T YOU WANT TO HAVE CONTROL OVER WHEN YOUR LIFE WILL END?

I DON'T WANT TO JUST WAIT IN FEAR, NEVER KNOWING WHEN DEATH WILL COME.

IT'S MUCH COOLER TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR THAT LEADS FROM HERE TO THE OTHER SIDE.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S KIND OF STRANGE. YOU CAN CHOOSE WHEN TO EAT, WHEN TO SLEEP, OR WHEN TO GO TO THE BATHROOM. YET, YOU CAN'T DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHEN YOU'RE BORN OR WHEN YOU DIE.

NO MATTER HOW BAD A PARENT MIGHT BE, THE CHILDREN ARE POWERLESS AGAINST THEM.

YOU CAN'T STAND UP TO THEM AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, MANATSU.

SO YOU THINK I FEEL THIS WAY BECAUSE OF MY PARENTS?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

"IF MY FATHER HADN'T LEFT, AND IF MY MOM WASN'T SO STRICT, MY LIFE WOULD'VE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY."

WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO THE WORLD BY COMMITTING SUICIDE, MANATSU?

NO...EVEN WITHOUT A NOTE, EVERY-ONE WILL PROBABLY REALIZE WHY SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE.

THAT'S RIGHT. ASPARAGUS WOULD PROBABLY WRITE DOWN THOSE GIRLS' NAMES, AND EVERYTHING THEY'VE DONE TO HER.

OH.

I GET EXCITED WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN AFTER I DIE.

THAT'S WHY YOU WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE. YOU SHOULD WRITE IT ALL DOWN IN YOUR SUICIDE NOTE.

CHUCKLE!

THAT'S RIGHT! IF ASPARAGUS COMMITS SUICIDE NOW, THEN THOSE GIRLS MIGHT GET CONVICTED OF...

...MURDER!

I NEVER REALIZED HOW POWERFUL SUICIDE IS. AMAZING!

HUH?

WHY DON'T YOU DO IT BY JUMPING IN FRONT OF A TRAIN, MANATSU?

THEY'LL HAVE TO STOP THE TRAIN AND REMOVE YOUR BODY, AND YOUR MOM WILL HAVE TO PAY A FINE TO THE CITY.

CHUCKLE!

HUH? DO THEY REALLY CHARGE FINES...OR IS THAT JUST A RUMOR STARTED TO DISCOURAGE TRAIN SUICIDES?

ACTUALLY, THERE WAS A GIRL WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE ON A RAILROAD A LONG TIME AGO. SHE STOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF AN EXPRESS TRAIN GOING 125 MILES AN HOUR.

REALLY? THAT'S AWFUL!

IT'S TRUE! IT'S USED TO COVER THE COSTS OF LAWSUITS AND DERAILMENTS FROM SUICIDES. AND THEY'RE PRETTY STUBBORN ABOUT GETTING IT PAID, TOO.

WOW...

BUT YOUR BODY WOULD BE ALL MANGLED!

I WANT TO FREEZE TO DEATH ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN.

YOU CAN CLIMB A MOUNTAIN, MANATSU?

Um..

I KNOW! I'LL USE SLEEPING PILLS!

That's cool!

BY THE TIME ANYONE NOTICES ME AND TRIES TO WAKE ME UP,

I'LL ALREADY BE DEAD!

YOU'D HAVE TO TAKE OVER 200 PILLS, THOUGH. ENOUGH TO FILL BOTH HANDS!

IF YOU JUMP FROM OVER SIXTEEN STORIES HIGH, YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FLOATING DOWN SLOWLY... AND IT'LL FEEL GREAT!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO JUMP, YOU HAVE TO DO IT FROM A PLACE OVER 65 FEET HIGH, OR YOU MIGHT NOT DIE. YOU HAVE TO JUMP FROM AT LEAST SEVEN OR EIGHT STORIES UP.

AND IT'S BEST IF THERE'S CONCRETE BELOW YOU.

HMM. YEAH. THAT'D BE TOUGH TO SWALLOW THIS MUCH?

.....

I SEE...

YEAH, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE JUMPED FEET FIRST.

HEY, EDGE'S BODY LOOKED LIKE IT DIDN'T HAVE A SCRATCH OR BRUISE ON IT AT ALL. I WONDER WHY?

YOU'D THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME...

IN THAT MOMENT, HE PROBABLY GAVE BIRTH TO THE GREATEST SONG IN HISTORY...

SURROUNDED BY THE GENTLE SUNLIGHT, LIKE A DREAM...

HE PROBABLY WASN'T SCARED, AND HE PROBABLY DIDN'T FEEL ANY PAIN EITHER.

I WONDER IF I SHOULD JUMP.

YOU DIE YOUNG AND LEAVE A BEAUTIFUL CORPSE.

THERE'S NO FEAR AND NO PAIN.

IT'S SIMPLE.

chuckle

CUT YOUR ARTERY.

CUT RIGHT HERE, LIKE YOU WERE HOLLOWING IT OUT.

I THINK CUTTING YOUR WRISTS WOULD BE BETTER.

HUH?

DO IT IN ONE QUICK STROKE. DON'T HESITATE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE SLEEPING PILLS.

YOU'LL LOSE SO MUCH BLOOD, YOU'LL GET ANEMIC, AND START TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS...

...AND YOUR TEMPERATURE WILL SLOWLY START TO DROP...

DYING WILL BE JUST LIKE SLOWLY FALLING ASLEEP.

IF YOU'RE 110 POUNDS, YOU SHOULD LET AT LEAST ONE LITER OF BLOOD DRAIN FROM YOUR BODY.

PUT YOUR HAND IN A SINK OR A BATHTUB, SO THE WOUND WON'T CLOSE UP.

IT'S TRUE.

JUST LIKE SLOWLY, SLOWLY...

... FALLING ASLEEP.

YEAH, ME TOO! THAT'D BE GREAT.

AND I'D RATHER HAVE FLOWERS THAN INCENSE.

I'D RATHER HAVE THEM SING HYMNS THAN CHANT.

FOR MY FUNERAL,

AND...

...IN THE PORTRAIT NEXT TO MY CASKET, I WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE SMILE ON MY FACE.

OH, NO! I DON'T HAVE ANY DECENT PICTURES!

.....

I DON'T WANT SOME STRANGE PHOTOGRAPHER GUY JUST TAKING IT HOWEVER HE WANTS.

UH-OH.

ME NEITHER...

OH, THESE TURNED OUT GREAT!

PHOTOS

YOUR EYES SHOW EVERY EMOTION, ASPARAGUS!

I GUESS I'LL USE THIS ONE.

Heh heh!

GASP!

OH, NO!

IT'S THEM!

ROACH SPRAY

ゴキブ

HURRY UP!

START MASTURBATING!

YOU! GET IN HERE!

PHOTOS

DO IT! AND FACE THE CAMERA!

PLEASE!

NO! LEAVE HER OUT OF THIS!

YOU DIDN'T COME UP WITH THE MONEY IN TIME, SO WE'RE COLLECTING INTEREST!

YOU HAND OVER SOME MONEY, TOO, BITCH!

Manatsu

ASPARAGUS!

IF YOU DON'T PLAY WITH YOURSELF, I'LL SPRAY THIS IN YOUR FRIEND'S MOUTH!

PHOTOS

...

Ha ha ha!

Ha ha ha! This is great!!

AAAAAAAAAH!

OPEN YOUR LEGS WIDER!

WIDER!

HEY—AREN'T YOU GOING TO THANK ME?

HERE'S SOME MONEY TO GET HOME.

チャリ

IF YOU WANT THESE PICTURES OF YOU MASTURBATING BACK, YOU'LL HAVE TO HAND OVER $450.

Ha ha!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

See ya!

Ha ha!

I WISH...

ASPARAGUS!

I'LL WALK HOME.

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO SAY,
NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS ARE AT THE MOMENT,
TIME WILL PASS AND EVERYTHING
WILL WORK OUT JUST FINE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO STRESS.

BUT HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO WAIT?

THEY TELL US, "WHEN YOU'RE SAD AND HURT,
JUST REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES YOU'VE HAD."
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE
NEVER HAD ANY GOOD TIMES IN THEIR LIVES?

FOR PEOPLE WHO
HAVE HAD NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS,
DYING IS MUCH EASIER THAN LIVING.

"YEAH, I WANT
TO BE SET FREE
FROM THIS PAIN."

ISN'T DEATH
THE ONLY THING
THAT CAN
SAVE HER?

I WALK AND WALK,
BUT ALL I CAN SEE
IS DARKNESS.

HEY, IS SUICIDE THE EXIT
OUT OF THE LONG TUNNEL OF PAIN?

"THAT'S
WHAT
ASPARAGUS
SAID."

"I WISH I'D JUST
HURRY UP AND
DIE."

I'M HOME!

HEY, WHAT MAKES SUICIDE SO BAD? CAN SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN THAT TO ME?

OH, NO!

THROW IT ALL OUT!

AUGH... AUGH...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THIS IS CREEPY! WHAT KIND OF CHILD WOULD COLLECT HER OWN SCABS?

NO! NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HONESTLY!

I'VE BEEN COLLECTING THEM FOR SIX YEARS!

HOW CRUEL, MOM!

WHEN YOU SAID, "FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO," DID YOU MEAN YOU'RE JUST GONNA FOOL AROUND AS MUCH AS YOU WANT?

FINALS ARE COMING UP, YOU KNOW!

AND WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN SO LATE AT NIGHT?

ARE YOU GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE?

IF YOU LIKE PLAYING AROUND EVERY DAY, ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT SCHOOL?

.....

IF YOU HATE YOUR MOTHER THAT MUCH, ARE YOU JUST GOING TO RUN AWAY?

PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY, "I WANT TO DIE, I WANT TO DIE," BUT THEY NEVER DO IT.

...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I'VE BEEN LETTING YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT IF YOU WERE BY YOURSELF, YOU'D BE HELPLESS.

SO I'M GOING TO...

I CAN'T TAKE THIS

BECAUSE THEY CAN'T.

I'M GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

I'M GOING TO DIE.

I'M GOING TO DO IT...

SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN COMMIT SUICIDE?

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING!

DAMMIT, I'LL SHOW YOU!

WAAAAAAAH!

I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF!

MY MOM'S GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE THE REST OF HER LIFE KNOWING THAT HER DAUGHTER COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE OF HER.

S-STOP IT, MANATSU!

MANATSU!

AAAAAH!

SERVES HER RIGHT!

WH...AT?

IT'S KIND OF LIKE FRIED CHICKEN FROM KFC... LIKE RAW CORN...

IS THAT FAT I SEE IN THE WOUND? MY WHITE FLESH HAS SHOWN ITSELF.

WOW, IT'S COMING OUT FAST.

MY BLOOD IS POURING OUT.

IT COMES OUT FASTER WHEN MY HEART BEATS.

THUMP-THUMP THUMP-THUMP

AH...MY BLOOD IS WARM.

AND IT SMELLS.

IT SMELLS LIKE NEW COINS.

THIS IS REALLY AMAZING!

AMAZING, AMAZING!

AMAZING.

THAT'S ALL I REALLY

"HELLO? I AN AMBULANCE!"

MY MOM BROUG A TOWEL, BUT RIGHT AWAY.

PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPT SUICIDE KNOW THAT THEY SHOULDN'T, BUT THEY ARE COMPELLED TO ANYWAY.

YES.

"WARNING SIGNS THAT SHE WAS THINKING OF SUICIDE?"

THEY FEEL DEPRESSED BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. THOSE KINDS OF NEGATIVE EMOTIONS ARE WHAT DRIVE THEM TO THE EDGE.

THEY FEEL TRAPPED, BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING. THEY THINK THEY *CAN'T* DO ANYTHING.

THEY MIGHT SAY THINGS LIKE, "NO ONE ACCEPTS ME" OR, "PEOPLE TREAT ME LIKE A BURDEN." THEY FEEL LONELY.

THEY USUALLY DISPLAY SOME WARNING SIGNS BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY ATTEMPT SUICIDE.

...THERE COULD BE SOME SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IF THIS BECOMES A HABIT. IF SHE CONTINUES TO SELF-MUTILATE AND LOSE TOO MUCH BLOOD,

IN THIS CASE, ONLY THE VEIN WAS SEVERED, BUT...

SHE'LL BECOME ANEMIC AND HER HEART WILL WEAKEN.

SHE'S LUCKY SHE DIDN'T DIE.

HOW... HORRIBLE!

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S CUT HER OWN WRISTS.

.....

IT'S NOT HER BODY THAT NEEDS TREATMENT THE MOST. IT'S HER MIND.

I RECOMMEND THAT SHE SEE A PSYCHIATRIST.

CONTINUES TO SELF-MUTILATE.

OH, NO.

THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT REASONS FOR ATTEMPTING SUICIDE: BEING TEASED, TROUBLE AT HOME, OR THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

IN ANY CASE, A YOUNG GIRL ATTEMPTING SUICIDE IS A CRY FOR HELP. IT'S AN SOS.

YEAH, I'M STILL IN THE HOSPITAL.

I'M KIND OF NUMB. I CAN'T MOVE MY FINGER.

!

BUT WHEN I WENT TO GET MY EARS PIERCED, I GOT SO SCARED I COULDN'T EVEN GO THROUGH WITH IT! BUT I REALLY DID IT THIS TIME!

COOL! YOU DID GOOD, MANATSU.

WHEN THEY SAY "SAFETY RAZOR," THEY REALLY MEAN "SAFETY RAZOR!"

BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD THE COURAGE TO CUT MY WRIST AND STILL DIDN'T DIE.

AND IT DIDN'T HURT AT ALL.

IT WAS NOTHING LIKE GIVING BLOOD. IT WAS LIKE ALL THE BLOOD IN MY BODY RUSHED RIGHT ONTO THE FLOOR AND POURED OUT ALL AT ONCE.

THE MOMENT I DECIDED TO KILL MYSELF, ALL MY TROUBLES DISSOLVED INTO THIN AIR.

WAIT! THE SUICIDE NOTE!

HA HA!

OH YEAH...

YOU'RE GETTING TOO WOUND UP, MANATSU. CALM DOWN.

I FORGOT ABOUT THE SUICIDE NOTE! THAT WAS CLOSE!

Ha ha!

THEY SAY WANTING TO COMMIT SUICIDE IS CONTAGIOUS. IT'S TRUE.

Chuckle!

I FEEL LIKE IF I WAS LEFT ALONE JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER, I WOULD'VE SEEN FIELDS OF FLOWERS.

ARE YOU LISTENING, MANATSU?

HMM?

AAH, IT FELT SO GOOD! I'D BE SOOO HAPPY IF I COULD DIE LIKE THAT.

Sigh!

DON'T DO IT ALONE, OKAY?

OKAY.

ASPARAGUS.

WHEN YOU DIE, I'LL DO IT WITH YOU.

Library

ALL RIGHT? WATCH THIS.

I'LL SHOW YOU THE RIGHT WAY TO USE A "SAFETY RAZOR."

YOU HAVE TO SLICE RIGHT THROUGH HERE.

A CUT LIKE THIS WON'T KILL YOU. IT'S TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE ARTERY.

WOW... YOU'RE RIGHT!

YOU CAN CUT BETTER WITH THIS SIDE.

Ah!

SNAP

I HEARD ABOUT THIS CASE WHERE SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE BOUGHT POISON OVER THE INTERNET, AND WHEN HE DRANK IT, HE REALLY DIED.

YOU CAN STILL GET THAT SAME POISON.

POISON.

I KNOW...

...A WAY TO DIE...

...THAT'S EVEN SIMPLER, BETTER, AND QUICKER.

HUH? WHAT? *KICKER?*

BUT, NEVER MIND THAT, MANATSU.

WOW...

UM-HM.

LOOK HERE, CYANIDE.

ADULT TOYS

VIDEO IMAGE CLUB QUEEN MERRY

S&M SHOW

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

THIS WAY, MANATSU.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

OF COURSE IT IS.

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY CALL IT CYANIDE? RHYMES WITH SUICIDE!

BUT ISN'T $500 FOR TWO CAPSULES FINANCIAL SUICIDE?

WELL, WE HAVE TO EARN $500, RIGHT?

WHAAAAAAAAT?

SEX SERVICES

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK AT MCDONALD'S OR A CONVENIENCE STORE?

BUT I NEVER WANTED A PART-TIME JOB LIKE THIS!

IT'D TAKE FOREVER TO MAKE $600 THAT WAY!

BUT A SEX SHOP?

MANATSU! PLEASE?

LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.

MANATSU, WHERE ARE YOU? HURRY UP AND COME HOME!

Ha ha!

It's all yours, ladies!

Manager

Front Desk

がしっ

I HATE THIS!

MANATSU! WE HAVE A CUSTOMER!

OH! WELCOME!

WELL...SINCE I DON'T HAVE A FUTURE, I WON'T HAVE TIME FOR REGRETS.

ASPARAGUS...

LOOK, WE'RE GONNA DIE SOON, RIGHT? THERE'S NO REASON TO SWEAT OVER THE DETAILS.

But...

I GUESS I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT, BUT...

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PICTURES AND CHOOSE WHICH GIRL YOU LIKE, SIR.

HEY! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A MOVIE STAR!

THIS PLACE HAS SOME REALLY CUTE GIRLS!

THE THINGS WE'LL DO FOR CYANIDE...

RINGO

ICHIGO

KU

AH, ICHIGO LOOKS NICE!

PLUM

KARIN

AAAH, BUT I DON'T WANT ANY OF THE OTHER GIRLS!

IF I CAN'T HAVE ICHIGO, THEN I'M GOING HOME.

OH, I'M SO SORRY, BUT SHE'S TAKEN AT THE MOMENT.

WHA...

WELCOME!

HOW ABOUT A DATE?

EH HEH..

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

OH! NICE! NICE!

MANATSU, JUST TALK TO HIM!

HUH? TALK? THAT'S IT?

STALL HIM, ALL RIGHT?

IF HE SAYS HE WANTS A DATE, SAY OKAY.

YOU CAN HAVE THAT ROOM RIGHT OVER THERE.

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR HALF AN HOUR OR SO, SIR?

AH!

HEY, YOU LOOK PRETTY NICE, TOO!

ARE YOU SURPRISED?

WE'RE RECEPTIONISTS, RIGHT? WE HAVE TO DO OUR JOB.

カシャ

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WE DID IT, ASPARAGUS!

$800!

EVEN IF ALL WE DID WAS THE RECEPTIONIST WORK, WE STILL WOULD'VE MADE $65 IN JUST TWO HOURS.

MANATSU'S POSES

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

THANK YOU! I'LL PUT THESE PICTURES UP FOR ABOUT A MONTH. WOULD $250 BE OKAY?

I'LL GIVE YOU EVEN MORE IF YOU LET ME PUT THEM OUT IN THE DISPLAY RIGHT OUTSIDE.

Mmeeeeee

Hiccup

STAGGER

.....

IT'S FUNNY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S SO SIMPLE TO MAKE SO MUCH MONEY WITHOUT HAVING SEX!

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE JOBS LIKE THIS

I MUST ADMIT, I REALLY GOT INTO IT AT THE END!

I COULD EVEN BE ONE OF THOSE GIRLS WHO LURE GUYS IN.

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FRAUD. IT'S FUNNY HOW ONE PERSON CAN PLAY SO MANY DIFFERENT ROLES

WELL, A COUPLE OF THE CUSTOMERS CAUGHT ON, BUT STILL...

WE'D JUST SAY, "HEY, HONEY, CHECK ME OUT!" AND ALL THEIR DOUBTS WOULD GO OUT THE WINDOW.

HA HA HA HA!

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT COULD YOU LEND US A LITTLE MONEY? I DROPPED MY WALLET.

NOW WE CAN'T GET HOME!

EH? SO YOU THINK I LOOK LIKE A NICE OLD MAN, EH? HA HA HA! WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE EVER PAID FOR SEX OR ANYTHING...

1000

1000 十円

HERE YOU GO.

CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME!

.....

I'LL GIVE YOU $80 FOR YOUR PEE.

SO ONE OUT OF FIVE OLD MEN REALLY WILL GIVE YOU MONEY IF YOU JUST ASK! IT'S TRUE! HA HA!

EXCUSE ME, GIRLS...

Huff, huff!

DANG, WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?! NO MATTER WHERE WE GO IT'S SO EASY TO MAKE MONEY!

I DON'T THINK HE'S FOLLOWING US ANYMORE

I WONDER WHAT HE DOES WITH THE PEE?

.....

WHICH IS MORE MEANINGLESS? WORKING PART-TIME SO THOSE GIRLS COULD TAKE MY MONEY, OR BEING LEERED AT BY GUYS LIKE THAT?

WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP ON LIVING IN IT?

THIS WHOLE WORLD IS DISGUSTING.

SICK!

.....

FROM THE DAY MEN AND WOMEN LEARN ABOUT SEX, THEY BECOME ANIMALS.

PEOPLE STILL HAVE SEX AT THAT AGE, HUH?

SHE'S ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS MOM.

AM I GOING TO STOP BEING A WOMAN WHEN I'M 25, OR EVEN WHILE I'M STILL IN MY TEENS? I'LL FALL IN LOVE OR SOMETHING AND GET MARRIED, THEN MY HUSBAND WILL CHEAT ON ME. IT'S A JOKE (JUST LIKE AT HOME)!

IT'S LIKE THE LONGER YOU LIVE, THE EMPTIER LIFE BECOMES.

IT'S AN ACCIDENT.

CHATTER, CHATTER, CHATTER!

A PEDESTRIAN GOT HIT, TOO.

IT'S ALMOST A MIRACLE THAT WE'RE EVEN STILL ALIVE.

PEOPLE DIE BY CHANCE ALL THE TIME.

IT'D BE SO BORING TO DIE IN AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT.

YOU COULD JUST BE WALKING ALONG, AND THEN SUDDENLY GET HIT FROM BEHIND AND DIE.

MANATSU, WE HAVE TO DIE SOON.

BEFORE WE BECOME CRAPPY ADULTS...

BEFORE WE DIE IN SOME MEANINGLESS WAY...

WE'RE GOING TO DECIDE THAT FOR OURSELVES.

THE WAY WE'LL DIE...

THE PLACE WE'LL DIE...

THE DAY WE'LL DIE...

THAT'S RIGHT.

YEAH...

I TRANSFERRED $500.

BANK

WE HAVE TO HURRY...

TO

BAN

ATM

THAT'S RIGHT...WE WANT TO MAKE OUR DECISION BEFORE THE NEW YEAR.

PUTTING YOUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS IN ORDER, HUH?

AFTER I WRITE MY SUICIDE NOTE TONIGHT, I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO DO.

MY PICTURE IS ALL READY TO GO...

.....

GRUMBLE!

HEY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE LEFTOVER MONEY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I WONDER IF IT WILL REALLY COME IN ONE WEEK!

OOH, I'VE SEEN THOSE BEFORE. AFTER YOU GET THE WHOLE SHEET STAMPED, YOU GET $0. YOU'RE THROWING IT AWAY?

BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT ANYMORE...

OR THIS EITHER!

New Year Bargains Jan. 3, 4 & 5

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE SUSHI AT THE COUNTER!

TUNA! TUNA! SEA URCHIN! TUNA!

WE CAN STUFF OURSELVES WITH WHATEVER WE WANT BEFORE WE DIE! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE GET FAT!

I WONDER WHY IN THE MOVIES, PEOPLE WHO WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE HEAD NORTH?

HEY ASPARAGUS, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A COUNTRY SONG.

ISN'T THAT BORING?

THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD SAY, "WHITE RICE AND BEANS" OR "RAMEN."

I FEEL LIKE A CONVICT WHO'S BEEN ASKED WHAT SHE WANTS FOR HER LAST MEAL!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO TOKYO TOWER!

Map

TOKYO

But there are plenty of empty seats.

HAVE A SEAT!

LET'S BE HAPPY FOR NOW!

HA HA
HA HA
HA.

HUH? WERE THE CITY AND THE PEOPLE AND THE SKY ALWAYS THIS COLORFUL?

HOW BEAUTIFUL!

AH, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I'VE REALLY LAUGHED—GENUINE BELLY LAUGHS!

WHY DO I FEEL SO FREE?

I ALMOST FEEL LIKE FORGIVING MOM.

Sign here, please

207

Thank you

Address: Tokyo
Mrs.Manatsu

36-04

ASPARAGUS!

I JUST TRANSFERRED THE MONEY YESTERDAY!

THAT WAS FAST!

THEY'VE GOT THIS PACKED REALLY TIGHTLY!

YOU COULD LOOK A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSED, YOU KNOW.

Thank you!

I THINK I'M GOING TO MIX MINE IN SOME PUDDING. ARE YOU GOING TO USE JUICE?

HEY...

I DON'T CARE. I WANT TO DIE NOW ANYWAY.

AAAAH!

WAIT! WAIT! WAIT! WOULDN'T IT BE MORE PEACEFUL TO DIE ON THE ROOFTOP?

THIS IS IT? NO INSTRUCTION BOOKLET OR ANYTHING?

AAAH! DON'T TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WRAPPER! JUST TOUCHING THEM WILL GET THE CYANIDE INTO YOUR BODY!

AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN THE WATER READY YET.

RIGHT?

AND YOUR BODY WILL SMELL LIKE ALMONDS.

IT'LL KILL YOU IN AN INSTANT.

BESIDES, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT IS ENOUGH TO KILL AN ADULT.

ARE YOU SURE WE WON'T NATURALLY THROW IT UP BEFORE IT WORKS? AND ARE YOU SURE IT WON'T HURT?

AAAAUGH!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE HAVE SO MUCH, IT CAN'T FAIL.

I'LL MIX IT IN THE JUICE.

I JUST WONDER IF THIS IS THE REAL DEAL OR NOT.

THAT'S NOT IT...

WOULD YOU STOP BEING SO AFRAID TO DIE, MANATSU?

UMM, WELL, UMM...

YOU SEE, UM...

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

I MEAN, WE'VE TOLD OURSELVES WE'RE GOING TO DIE. IT'D BE PRETTY ANTI-CLIMACTIC IF THESE PILLS TURNED OUT TO BE FAKE.

MAYBE WE SHOULD TEST THEM ON A MOUSE

OR TAKE THEM TO A PHARMACIST TO GET THEM CHECKED OUT!

BUT—DUH!—IF WE DID THAT HE'D PROBABLY CALL THE COPS.

EH... HEH...

WHAT AM I THINKING?

ASPARAGUS?

HUH?

WE SHOULD TEST IT ON A PERSON.

SHHH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

IF IT'S THE REAL THING, THEN WE'LL DRINK THE REST.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE KILL SOMEONE. WE'RE GOING TO DIE ANYWAY.

OH, NO...

SEE YA!

I THINK THEY MIGHT PUT IT BACK.

AND THAT KIND OF JUICE ISN'T EVEN IN THAT VENDING MACHINE.

THERE'S NO REASON TO GET THESE KIDS MIXED UP IN THIS.

AND THE CAP'S OPEN.

JUST ONE SIP WILL BE ENOUGH.

IF IT'S THE REAL THING, HE'LL HAVE CONVULSIONS AND DIE. IF HE DOESN'T TAKE A LETHAL DOSE, HE'LL FAINT.

LOOK, HE'S DRINKING!

POX!

??

I JUST CAN'T GET OTHER PEOPLE MIXED UP IN THIS.

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO SHOULD DIE.

THIS IS WRONG!

.....

WELL, THEN...

DRINK IT.

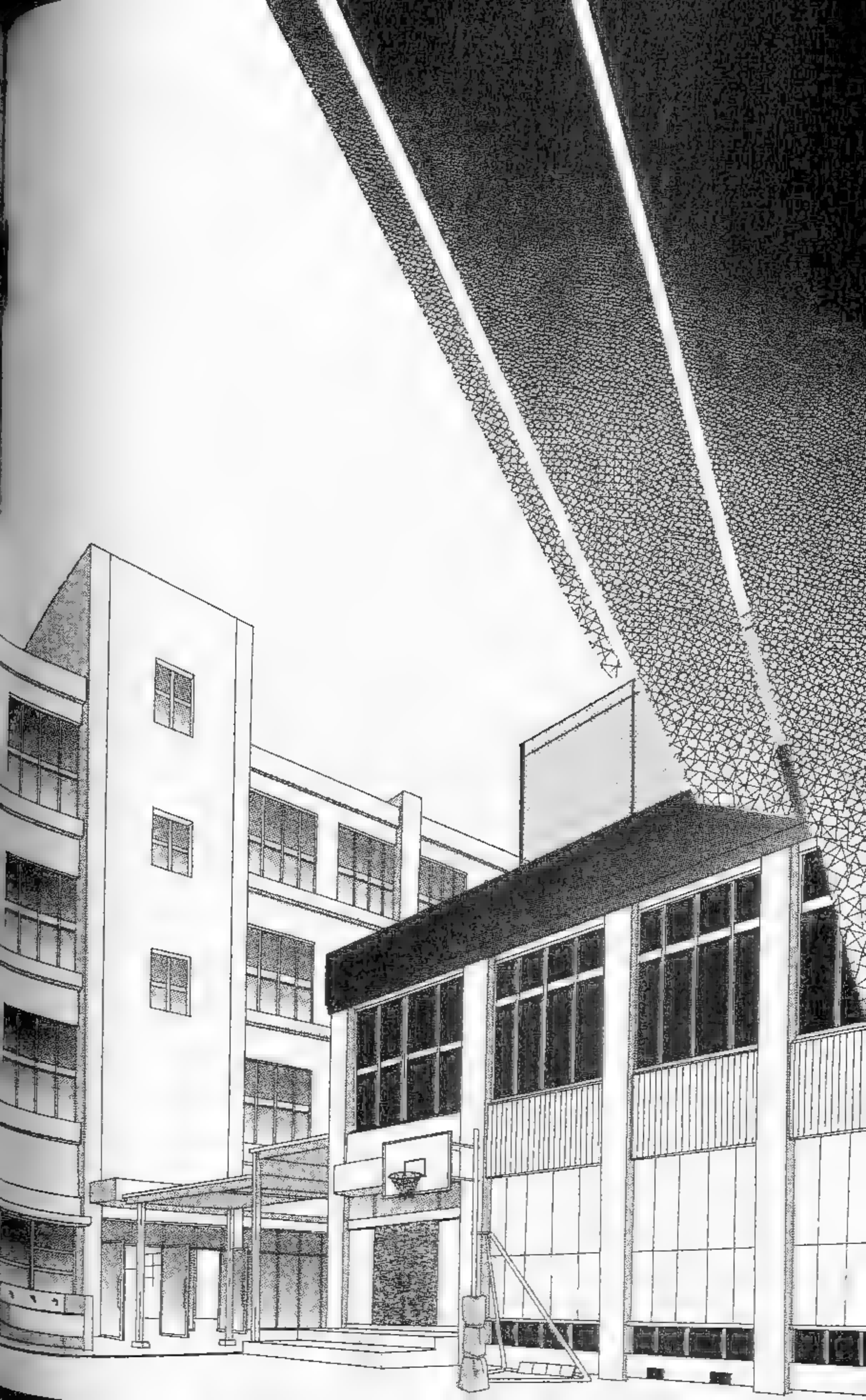
YOU JUST GET OFF IN WALLOWING IN YOUR OWN SADNESS.
YOU'RE HAVING FUN PRETENDING YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO KILL YOURSELF
YOU DON'T

I REALLY DO WANT TO DIE!

YOU'RE WRONG!

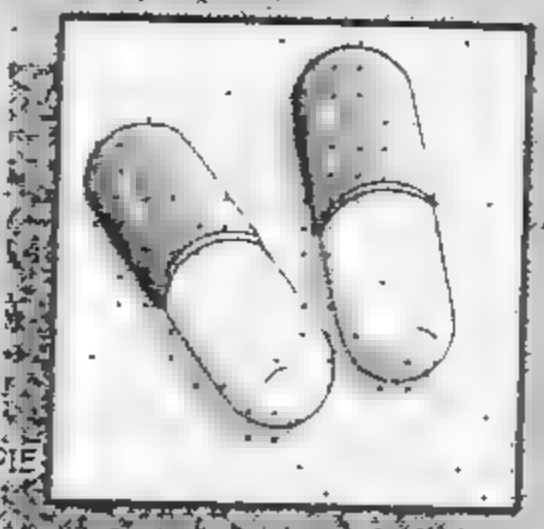
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY.

BUT SAYING YOU WANT TO DIE AND ACTUALLY DOING IT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

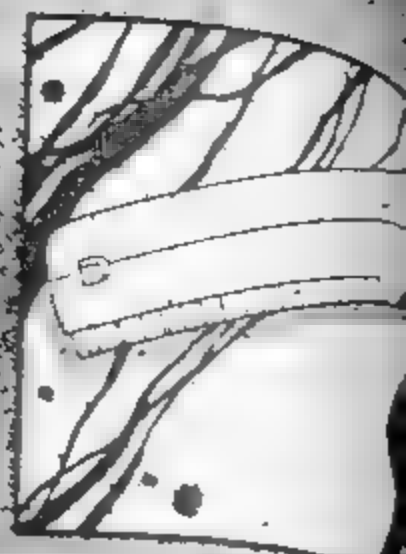


"YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO DIE, MANATSU. YOU'RE HAVING FUN PRETENDING YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO KILL YOURSELF."

BUT I REALLY DID WANT TO DIE



"BUT SAYING YOU WANT TO DIE AND ACTUALLY DOING IT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS."



BUT SLITTING MY WRIST FOR THE FIRST TIME FELT SO NICE

UNTIL I CAN ACTUALLY GO THROUGH WITH KILLING MYSELF, I'M GOING TO BE STUCK IN THIS WORLD...

1 - A

I WONDER IF I'VE GOTTEN SCARED OF DYING.

Morning!

Morning!

THE SENDER

DID YOU STUDY FOR THE TEST? I HAVEN'T AT ALL! I'M IN TROUBLE!

SHE SAYS SHE DIDN'T STUDY, BUT SHE PROBABLY DID. SHE GETS NOTHING BUT STRAIGHT A'S.

OKAY, NEXT!

IT'S THE SAME OLD E-MAIL I GET BEFORE EVERY SINGLE TEST.

HUH? THERE WAS ANOTHER PERSON BACK THERE?

LET'S SEE...

SEATING CHART

YOU'RE, UM...

NO WAY! HE SKIPPED OVER ME...

.....

OH, MY TURN!

THAT'S SATO, RIGHT?

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M IN HIS CLASS OR NOT

IT'S DECEMBER AND HE ST... DOESN'T REMEMBER MY NAME?

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY ZERO IMPACT ON PEOPLE

BUT JUST ONE MORE STEP...

...AND I COULD DESTROY MYSELF AND THE PEOPLE AROUND ME

I GET IT NOW...

THIS KIND OF DAY IS GOING TO REPEAT ITSELF OVER AND OVER FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.

YOU'LL BE SEEING A FEMALE DOCTOR. SHE JUST WANTS TO TRY TALKING TO YOU...

ME? SEE A PSYCHIATRIST?

.....

PLEASE, DO IT FOR ME.

ALL RIGHT, MANATSU.

I'M NOT DOING IT.

THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF PLACE I NEED TO GO.

ARE TESTS REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

HUH? BUT...

IF I TRY REALLY HARD, CAN I HAVE A HAPPY FUTURE?

IF I DO WELL, CAN I GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE?

YOU HAVE TO GET BETTER SOON. FINAL EXAMS ARE COMING UP.

BUT I THINK YOU MIGHT BE SICK, DEAR.

YOU NEED TO BE TREATED.

MANATSU?

DOES MOM LIKE HER LIFE?

MANATSU?

WHEN I LOOK AT THE ADULTS IN THIS WORLD, I REALIZE THAT THE FUTURE HOLDS NOTHING BUT DESPAIR.

THAT DAY, I SLIT MY WRIST RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY MOM. I WANTED HER TO SUFFER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

BECAUSE THE THING SHE WORRIES ABOUT MOST IS HOW SHE LOOKS IN THE EYES OF SOCIETY. SO ASPARAGUS AND I PLOTTED THE BEST WAY TO COMMIT SUICIDE. WHAT WOULD HAVE THE GREATEST EFFECT?

EVERYTHING I SAW AROUND ME MADE ME SICK.

AT THE END OF EVERY CRAPPY DAY, I WISHED THAT TOMORROW WOULD NEVER COME.

BEING NICE TO PEOPLE...

BEING ABLE TO LAUGH WITH ALL YOUR HEART...

APPRECIATING THE BEAUTY OF THE CITY AND SKY...

IT'S THE FINAL HAPPINESS.

THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP ON LIVING.

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT AM I WAITING FOR?

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME IF I GO BACK?

I MIGHT AS WELL DIE.

WAIT, ASPARAGUS

ASPARAGUS..

THERE'S NO MORE REASON LEFT FOR ME TO HESITATE.

ASPARAGUS!

IT'LL BE SIMPLE FOR ME TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE WORLD OF DEATH.

DID YOU GET BULLIED BY THOSE GIRLS AGAIN?

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D GONE AHEAD OF ME.

I THINK DYING ALONE IS LONELY; TOO...

I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREAT IF I COULD BE A HERO AND SAVE YOU FROM THOSE GIRLS.

.....

THAT'D BE GREAT. BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

OR START STUDYING. THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS I WAS GOING TO DO.

OR START DOING SOME SERIOUS WORK AT THAT SEX SHOP.

IF I COULDN'T DO THAT, THEN I WAS GOING TO RUN AWAY.

BUT THEY WERE ALL IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME.

PEOPLE PROBABLY SAY...

...THAT WE'RE WEAK...

...THAT WE NEVER PUT EFFORT INTO ANYTHING.

AND THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE UNLESS WE DIE.

BUT I THINK THAT IF WE DIE, THINGS WILL CHANGE.

I CAN HEAR IT.

SOMETIMES, MY EARS START RINGING, AND I CAN HEAR A VOICE.

IT TELLS ME, "IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DIE."

CAN YOU HEAR IT, MANATSU?

"IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DIE."

"IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DIE."

IF I CUT MY WRIST, IT WON'T HURT.

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE FALLING ASLEEP, DRUNK FROM THE SMELL OF MY OWN BLOOD AS I FEEL ITS WARMTH.

IF THAT'S WHAT "DEATH" IS...

...I'M NOT AFRAID.

チキチキ

I'LL GO AHEAD OF YOU.

I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT IF I DON'T DO IT TODAY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

IF I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF, IT HAS TO BE TODAY.

THEN COMMITTING SUICIDE WILL BE THE ONLY THING I CAN BE PROUD OF DOING IN MY ENTIRE 16 YEARS OF LIFE.

IF I HAVE NOTHING...

IF I CAN'T DO ANYTHING...

I'VE DECIDED THAT COMMITTING SUICIDE IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE MY EXISTENCE.

PLEASE USE THIS!

IT'S STRANGE...

JUST WHEN I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF...

...ALL THESE STUPID LITTLE THINGS KEEP POPPING IN MY HEAD, LIKE THE MANGA I BORROWED BUT DIDN'T RETURN YET, OR THE MELON BREAD I LEFT IN MY DESK.

...

OH, NO! ASPARAGUS'S PICTURE!

OH, NO...

...UM...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MANATSU.

HERE YOU GO

BUT THIS IS THE PICTURE YOU WANTED TO USE FOR YOUR FUNERAL!

WAAAH!

OH, NO! I WANTED TO CUT MY WRIST, BUT I'M GOING TO DIE IN AN ACCIDENT!

ASPARAGUS, HELP ME!

HEY, ASPARAGUS!

ズ…

ズ…

AH...

AAAUGH

LET'S JUMP TOGETHER.

IT'LL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT IF WE FALL TO OUR DEATHS TOGETHER.

IT'LL EVEN BE IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ASPARAGUS? H-HURRY!

IF I FALL, I'LL DEFINITELY DIE!

BUT IT FEELS MORE LIKE 100 OR 200 STORIES!

THIS SHOULD ONLY BE ABOUT 16 STORIES UP.

WHAT ARE WE COMPARED TO THAT? WHY DID WE HAVE A LAST MEAL AND EAT WHATEVER WE WANTED? I JUST WANT TO DIE PEACEFULLY AND BEAUTIFULLY.

A ASPARAGUS?

PEOPLE WHO CUT THEIR WRISTS OR HANG THEMSELVES ARE SMART. THEY DIE ALONE IN ONE CLEAN SHOT.

IT'S NAIVE TO THINK THAT DYING ALONE WOULD BE LONELY. A SUICIDE THAT ENDS IN FAILURE IS NOTHING TO BOAST ABOUT.

IT'S NO GOOD! I'M GOING TO FALL!

I'M GOING TO FALL!

.....!!

MY HAND'S SLIPPING. I CAN'T HOLD ON ANYMORE.

ASPAR-AGUS!

NOOOOOO!

STOP IT! STOP IT, ASPARAGUS!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

NO! I HATE THIS!

I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED!

SOMEBODY! HELP ME!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

JUMP. I'M JUMPING.

DON'T GET THE PEDESTRIANS INVOLVED IN THIS

AAAAUGH!

EVEN IF THEY DO SAVE MY LIFE, I'D PROBABLY STILL BE PARALYZED. DO YOU WANT TO SEE ME LIKE THAT?

I'M GONNA DO IT IN ONE SHOT.

STOP! STOP IT!

CALL THE POLICE!

Aaaugh!

HELP ME!

Look over there!

IT'S NO USE! THEY WON'T GET HERE IN TIME!

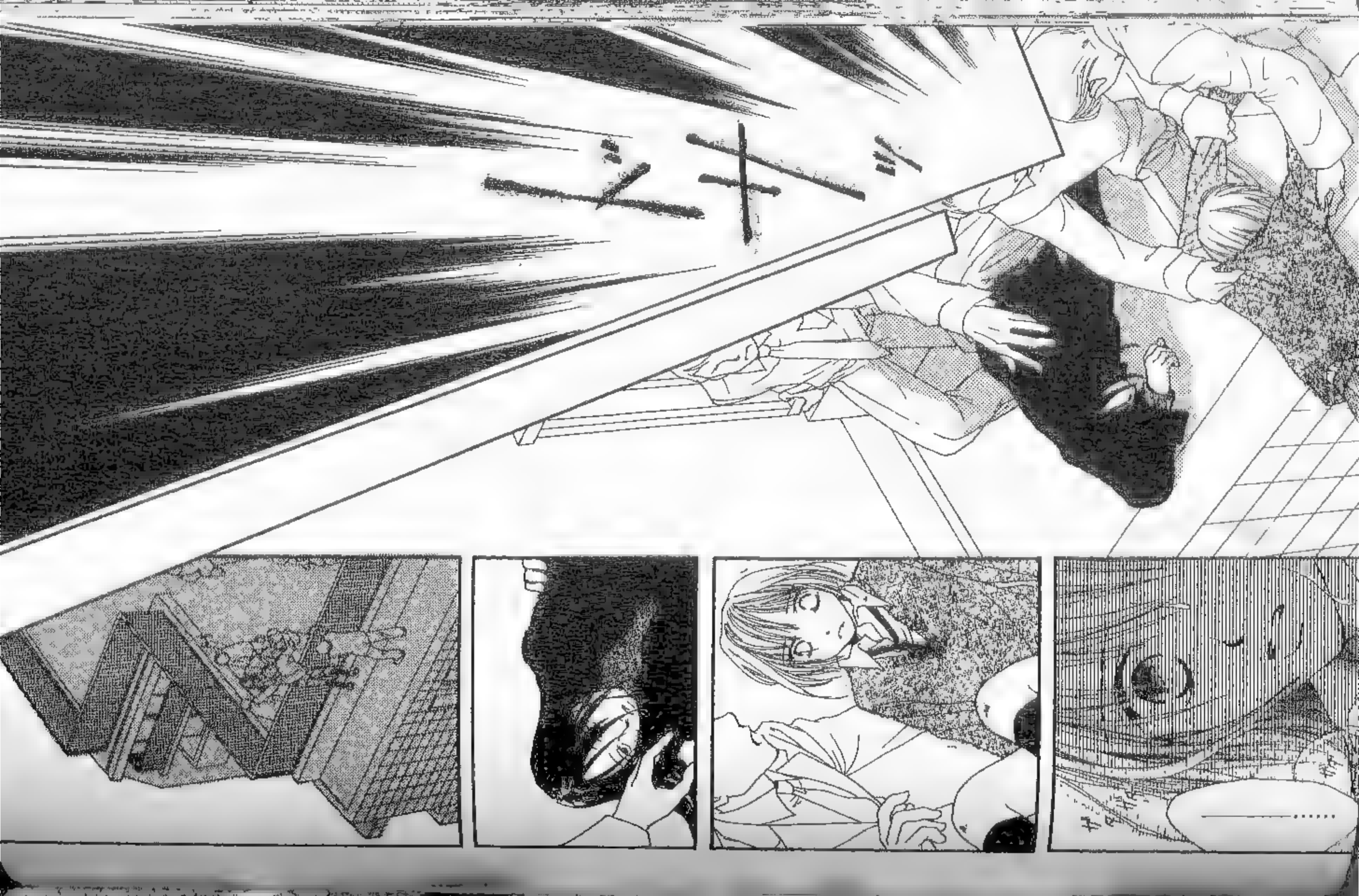
ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO JUMP!

I CAN SEE IT...THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE WORLD OF DEATH.

I NEVER KNEW IT WAS THIS COLOR...

NO!

ASPARAGUS!



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THE DOOR TO THE WORLD OF DEATH IS A HEAVY ONE.

I COULDN'T OPEN THE DOOR

I COULDN'T DO IT

I COULDN'T KILL MYSELF

THE POLICE TOOK ME IN BECAUSE OF MY ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

AND FROM THAT DAY ON, MOM STOPPED HANGING OUT DAD'S LAUNDRY.

TODAY IS CHRISTMAS EVE,

AND THE WHOLE CITY IS DECKED IN LIGHTS...

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT SHE MEANT BY THAT.

ASPARAGUS ONCE TOLD ME ON THE PHONE, "CUTTING YOUR WRIST CAN BE A PAIN, TOO."

I FELT SO DRAINED...LIKE I LOST ALL MY ENERGY. I SKIPPED FINALS AND GRADUATION.

THAT MUST BE...

OH, NO...

IT'S ASPARAGUS'S NAME!

田中家告別式

YES, THAT'S ME.

HUH? TANAKA'S FUNERAL?

UMM, WHO IS THAT?

NEXT IS...

YOU'RE ON THE LIST OF NAMES.

THE FIRST ONE TO SPOT HER WAS THE APARTMENT MANAGER.

HER PARENTS WEREN'T HOME IT SEEMS KIND OF COMPLICATED.

WATER WAS LEAKING INTO THE APARTMENT BELOW. WHEN THE MANAGER WENT TO CHECK IT OUT, SHE FOUND ASPARAGUS.

SHE DIDN'T LEAVE A SUICIDE NOTE.

SHE'D CUT HER WRISTS IN THE BATHROOM.

IT WAS ONE CLEAN CUT...NO HESITATION.

WH-WHAT'S WITH ASPARAGUS'S PICTURE!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PICTURES WE TOOK WAY BACK WHEN?

THEY'RE USING A REALLY BAD PIC!

HOW LONG AGO DID THEY TAKE IT?

IT'S TOSHIE!

RIE WAS...

THERE'S CHANTING AND INCENSE.

ALL OF THE PEOPLE GIVING EULOGIES ARE GETTING ASPARAGUS'S NAME WRONG.

AND A LOT OF SEATS ARE EMPTY.

OF COURSE, IT WASN'T IN THE PAPER.

WHEN ASPARAGUS WAS COMMITTING SUICIDE... I WAS SITTING IN FRONT OF THE TV EATING CANDY!

OUR TEACHER IS ON VACATION, SO HE'S NOT EVEN HERE.

ISN'T THIS JUST WRONG?

ALL RIGHT, PLEASE PAY YOUR FINAL RESPECTS.

I'M SCARED TO LOOK!

THIS ISN'T PRETTY AT ALL!

WHAT KIND OF EXPRESSION DID SHE PUT ON HER FACE?

HER SKIN IS PITCH-BLACK AND ON TOP OF THAT HER LEFT EYE IS SLIGHTLY OPEN

THIS IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE HAD IMAGINED!

SHE MUST'VE BEEN BRAVE, THOUGH.

I'M SURPRISED SHE'D JUST KILL HERSELF LIKE THAT!

BUT I WONDER WHY SHE KILLED HERSELF?

Kita Junior High graduates over here!

What the?

COME ON...

Asparagus?

Huh?

DIDN'T YOU KNOW SHE WAS CUTTING HER WRISTS EITHER?

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW WHY ASPARAGUS KILLED HERSELF? DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH?

!!

SHE KILLED HERSELF BECAUSE SHE WAS BEING BULLIED BY THESE GIRLS!

WHA...

SHE WAS BEING BULLIED.

I KNOW WHY SHE KILLED HERSELF.

"

IT'S THEM!

DON'T TRY ACTING SO INNOCENT!

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

Hey! Stop it!

YOU REMEMBER ME, DON'T YOU?

SHE KILLED HERSELF TO ESCAPE BEING BULLIED!

YOU'RE THE SAME AS MURDERERS!

IT'S YOUR FAULT!

THEY WERE BULLYING HER EVEN AFTER GRADUATION!

THERE'S NO WAY SHE WAS STILL BEING PICKED ON

That's right.

SHE DID GET TEASED A LITTLE IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT THAT WAS BACK BEFORE WE ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.

THEY MADE HER MASTURBATE AND TOOK PICTURES!

THEY SPRAYED HER WITH BUG SPRAY!

THEY KEPT DEMANDING HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY FROM HER!

BUT...

DO THESE GIRLS REALLY THINK THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HER SUICIDE?

"Isn't a big enough reason...?!"

BESIDES, BEING TEASED ISN'T A BIG ENOUGH REASON TO KILL YOURSELF.

AND THERE WASN'T A SUICIDE NOTE ANYWAY.

HEY, YOU, TAKE IT OUTSIDE!

TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.

BUT WE ONLY DID IT BECAUSE WE WERE HER FRIENDS.

SURE, SHE LENT US SOME MONEY. AND, SURE, WE DID PLAY SOME PRACTICAL JOKES ON HER.

She was depressed.

There has to be another reason!

She wasn't bullied.

THEY SHOULD'VE REALIZED WHY YOU KILLED YOURSELF, EVEN WITHOUT A NOTE, RIGHT?

WHAT'S GOING ON, ASPARAGUS?

WHAT'S GOING ON? NONE OF THEM BELIEVE.

THEY SHOULDN'T BE SAYING THIS!

WE'RE GOING HOME

WAIT! WAIT!

I'LL GET CHANGED REALLY QUICKLY AND BE RIGHT THERE.

YEAH, I'M STILL IN MY UNIFORM.

SEE YOU.

ARE YOU WATCHING THIS ASPARAGUS?

THEY'RE NOT BOTHERED AT ALL

WHEN THEY HEAR ABOUT THE SUICIDE, THEY ...

...THEY'RE JUST WALKING AWAY LAUGHING

THEY'RE JUST GOING TO GO ON WITH THEIR LIVES LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED

EVEN THOUGH YOU COMMITTED SUICIDE

COME BACK, ASPARAGUS!

YOUR DEATH WAS CHOSEN FOR YOU BY A BUNCH OF EVIL HUMAN BEINGS!

GRR

YAAA

COME BAAACK!

WAAAAA!

SUICIDE IS WORTHLESS

IT DOESN'T LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING!

SUICIDE IS JUST ONE PERSON ESCAPING FROM THIS WORLD WITHOUT EVEN GETTING BACK AT THE PEOPLE WHO MADE HER KILL HERSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THERE'S NOTHING

YOU CAN'T START OVER

YOU CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING AS LOST A SOUL

THAT'S ALL.

I'VE TALKED WITH YOUR DAD.

WE'VE DECIDED TO OFFICIALLY GET DIVORCED.

I'M GOING TO BE SWITCHING BACK TO MY MAIDEN NAME, OKAY?

MANATSU, I'M SORRY. I...

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN IT, MOM?

WHAT?

YEAH.

THEY SAY THAT IT'S "HEAVIER THAN THE EARTH," BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY SAY MUCH...

THEY SAY LIFE IS HEAVY. BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

DOES LIFE HAVE ANY MEANING?

.....

I WANT AN ANSWER I CAN BELIEVE IN.

HA HA!

I'VE HEARD A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE'S OPINIONS ON THE MEANING OF LIFE, BUT...

THEY TAUGHT ME THAT IN SCHOOL, TOO.

.....

I WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS. IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A LOT...EVEN JUST ONE PERSON I COULD CALL A FRIEND WOULD'VE BEEN OKAY.

I WANTED TO BE REBORN AS A NEW ME.

I WANTED TO GET INTO SOME CLUBS. I WANTED TO DO LOTS OF THINGS.

HUH?

LISTEN, MANATSU, WHEN YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU ANYMORE, WHEN YOU WERE ACCEPTED TO Y HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO? TRY TO REMEMBER.

THINK BACK...

.....

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JUST STARE AT THE POSTERS ON YOUR WALL OR AT THE CEILING FOR A WHILE.

OF COURSE, IT WON'T BE THAT SIMPLE. YOU'LL GET FRUSTRATED AND YOU'LL LOSE CONFIDENCE SOMETIMES.

AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL GET BORED, AND YOU'LL WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE.

I THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS, BUT THEY NEVER WENT WELL.

STARTING TODAY, JUST TRY ONE MORE TIME TO MAKE THAT IMAGE OF YOURSELF A REALITY.

MANATSU... TRY ONE MORE TIME.

BUT...

...I WANT YOU TO LIVE.

I CAN'T SAY IT VERY WELL EITHER, BUT...

AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, THAT'S ENOUGH.

EVERY TIME I FACED DEATH,

I FELT AN ATTACHMENT TO "LIFE," AND HOPE WELLED UP INSIDE ME

WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO FALL FROM THE ROOF, THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I REALLY FELT "DEATH."

"IS THIS SUICIDE?"

EANING OF LIFE
CA ME UP WITH

BUT THAT'S PROBABLY JUST THE WAY IT IS.

SUICIDE IS PRETTY LAME, BUT SO IS LIFE SOMETIMES.

RIGHT, ASPARAGUS?

IT'S CRAPPY...AND IT SUCKS JUST AS BAD AS GIVING SOMEONE YOUR PEE.

IT'S SNOWING.

ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL?

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

YEAH.

YEAH...I'LL JUST TAKE IT SLOW.

FOR NOW.

MANATSU...

I'M GOING NOW.

SEE YOU LATER.

I'LL JUST TAKE IT ONE DAY AT A TIME.

IF I JUST KEEP FOCUSING ON THE ME I WANT TO BE, I'M SURE I'LL GET CLOSER AND CLOSER.

THE END

CONFIDENTIAL CONFESSIONS

REIKO MOMOCHI

1

TOKYOPOP

CONFIDENTIAL CONFESSIONS

"THE DOOR"

Only for people with steady mentality!!!

If, at some moment while reading the story,
you feel like jumping out of the window
(for instance), please first read the whole story!!!,
in order not to regret that you are gone before
seeing the real end!

Scanned by Jelena

REIKO MOMOCHI

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